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Mathematical Problems in Mechanics

Unique continuation for first-order systems with integrable coefficients and applications to elasticity and plasticity

Continuation unique pour des systèmes du premier ordre avec des coefficients intégrables et applications à l'élasticité et à la plasticité

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ABSTRACT

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ be a Lipschitz domain and Γ be a relatively open and non-empty subset of its boundary $\partial\Omega$. We show that the solution to the linear first-order system:

$$\nabla\zeta = G\zeta, \quad \zeta|_{\Gamma} = 0, \quad (1)$$

vanishes if $G \in L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{(N \times N) \times N})$ and $\zeta \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N)$. In particular, square-integrable solutions ζ of (1) with $G \in L^1 \cap L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{(N \times N) \times N})$ vanish. As a consequence, we prove that:

$$\|\cdot\| : C_0^\infty(\Omega, \Gamma; \mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow [0, \infty), \quad u \mapsto \|\text{sym}(\nabla u P^{-1})\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$$

is a norm if $P \in L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$ with $\text{Curl } P \in L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$, $\text{Curl } P^{-1} \in L^q(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$ for some $p, q > 1$ with $1/p + 1/q = 1$ as well as $\det P \geq c^+ > 0$. We also give a new and different proof for the so-called ‘infinitesimal rigid displacement lemma’ in curvilinear coordinates: Let $\Phi \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$, satisfy $\text{sym}(\nabla \Phi^T \nabla \Psi) = 0$ for some $\Psi \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3) \cap H^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$ with $\det \nabla \Psi \geq c^+ > 0$. Then there exists a constant translation vector $a \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and a constant skew-symmetric matrix $A \in \mathfrak{so}(3)$, such that $\Phi = A\Psi + a$.

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R É S U M É

Soit $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ un domaine et $\emptyset \neq \Gamma \subset \partial\Omega$ un sous-ensemble relativement ouvert de sa frontière $\partial\Omega$, supposée lipschitzienne. Nous démontrons que la solution du système linéaire du premier ordre :

$$\nabla\zeta = G\zeta, \quad \zeta|_{\Gamma} = 0, \quad (1)$$

s'annule si $G \in L^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{(N \times N) \times N})$ et $\zeta \in W^{1,1}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N)$. En particulier, les solutions de carré intégrable de (1) avec $G \in L^1 \cap L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{(N \times N) \times N})$ s'annulent. Comme conséquence, nous prouvons que :

$$\|\cdot\| : C_0^\infty(\Omega, \Gamma; \mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow [0, \infty), \quad u \mapsto \|\text{sym}(\nabla u P^{-1})\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$$

est une norme lorsque $P \in L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$ avec $\text{Curl } P \in L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$, $\text{Curl } P^{-1} \in L^q(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$ pour $p, q > 1$, $1/p + 1/q = 1$, et $\det P \geq c^+ > 0$. Nous présentons aussi une nouvelle démonstration du lemme du déplacement rigide infinitésimal en coordonnées curvilignes :

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si $\Phi \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$ satisfait $\text{sym}(\nabla\Phi^\top \nabla\psi) = 0$ pour certain $\psi \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3) \cap H^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$, avec $\det \nabla\psi \geq c^+ > 0$, il existe des constantes $a \in \mathbb{R}^3$ et $A \in \mathfrak{so}(3)$ telles que $\Phi = A\psi + a$.
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1. Introduction

Consider the linear first-order system of partial differential equations:

$$\nabla\zeta = G\zeta, \quad \zeta|_\Gamma = 0. \tag{2}$$

Obviously, one solution is $\zeta = 0$. But is this solution unique? The answer is not as obvious as it may seem; consider for example in dimension $N := 1$, $G(t) := 1/t$ in the domain $\Omega := (0, 1)$ with $\Gamma := \{0\} \subset \partial\Omega$. Then $\zeta := \text{id} \neq 0$ solves (2). However, in the latter example, the solution becomes unique if $G \in L^1(\Omega)$, which is easily deduced from Gronwall’s lemma. Here we can see that the integrability condition on the coefficient G is relevant; for a precise formulation of the result, see Section 2. The uniqueness of the solution to (2) makes:

$$\|u\| := \|\text{sym}(\nabla u P^{-1})\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \tag{3}$$

a norm on

$$C^\infty_0(\Omega, \Gamma; \mathbb{R}^3) := \{u \in C^\infty(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{R}^3) : \text{dist}(\text{supp } u, \Gamma) > 0\},$$

where

$$C^\infty(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{R}^3) := \{u|_\Omega : u \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3; \mathbb{R}^3)\},$$

for $P \in L^\infty(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$ with $\det P \geq c^+ > 0$, if in addition $\text{Curl } P \in L^p(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$, $\text{Curl } P^{-1} \in L^q(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$ for some $p, q > 1$ and $1/q + 1/p = 1$. Here the Curl of a matrix field is defined as the row-wise standard curl in \mathbb{R}^3 .

The question whether an expression of the form (3) is a norm arises when trying to generalize Korn’s first inequality to hold for non-constant coefficients, i.e.,

$$\exists c > 0 \quad \forall u \in H^1_0(\Omega, \Gamma; \mathbb{R}^3) \quad \|\text{sym}(\nabla u P^{-1})\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \geq c \|u\|_{H^1(\Omega)}, \tag{4}$$

which was first done for $P, P^{-1}, \text{Curl } P \in C^1(\overline{\Omega}; \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3})$ by Neff in [7], see also [16]. Here $H^1_0(\Omega, \Gamma; \mathbb{R}^3)$ denotes the closure of $C^\infty_0(\Omega, \Gamma; \mathbb{R}^3)$ in $H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^3)$. The classical Korn’s first inequality is obtained for P being the identity matrix, see [3,5,7,13,14]. The inequality (4) has been proved in [16] to hold for continuous P^{-1} , whereas it can be violated for $P^{-1} \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ or $P^{-1} \in \mathfrak{SO}(3)$ a.e. Each one of the counterexamples given by Pompe in [15–17] uses the fact that for such P , an expression of the form of $\|\cdot\|$ is not a norm (it has a nontrivial kernel) on the spaces of functions considered. Quadratic forms of the type (4) arise in applications to geometrically exact models of shells, plates and membranes, in micromorphic and Cosserat type models and in plasticity, [8–11].

The so-called ‘infinitesimal rigid displacement lemma in curvilinear coordinates’, a version of which can be found in [1] and which is important for linear elasticity in curvilinear coordinates (see also [2,4]) states the following: if $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ is a bounded domain, $\psi \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N)$ satisfying $\det \nabla\psi \geq c^+ > 0$ a.e. and $\Phi \in H^1(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^N)$ with $\text{sym}(\nabla\Phi^\top \nabla\psi) = 0$ a.e., then on a dense open subset Ω' of Ω , there exist locally constant mappings $a : \Omega' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$ and $A : \Omega' \rightarrow \mathfrak{so}(N)$ such that locally $\Phi = A\psi + a$. If Ω is Lipschitz, then the terms ‘locally’ can be dropped. In their proof [1], the authors apply the chain rule to $\Theta := \Phi \circ \psi^{-1}$ and use the observation that the conditions $\text{sym}(\nabla\Phi^\top \nabla\psi) = 0$ and $\text{sym}(\nabla\Phi(\nabla\psi)^{-1}) = 0$ are equivalent by a clever conjugation with $(\nabla\psi)^{-1}$, that is:

$$(\nabla\psi)^{-\top} \text{sym}(\nabla\Phi^\top \nabla\psi)(\nabla\psi)^{-1} = \text{sym}(\nabla\Phi(\nabla\psi)^{-1}) = \text{sym}(\nabla(\Phi \circ \psi^{-1})) \circ \psi, \tag{5}$$

together with the classical infinitesimal rigid displacement lemma applied on Θ , defined on the domain $\psi(\Omega)$. If a boundary condition $\Phi = 0$ on a relatively open subset of the boundary is added to this lemma, one obtains $\Phi = 0$ (cf. [2, 1.7-3(b)]).

The main part of our proof that $\|\cdot\|$ is a norm consists in obtaining $u = 0$ from $\text{sym}(\nabla u P^{-1}) = 0$. By taking $P = \nabla\psi$ to be a gradient, we present another proof of the infinitesimal rigid displacement lemma in dimension $N = 3$, which yields $\Phi = A\psi + a$ with $A \in \mathfrak{so}(N)$, $a \in \mathbb{R}^N$. We need slightly more regularity than in [1], however. The key tool for obtaining our results is Neff’s formula for the Curl of the product of two matrices, the first of which is skew-symmetric (see [7]).

2. Results

Let us first note that by ∇ we denote not only the gradient of a scalar-valued function, but also (as an usual gradient row-wise) the derivative or Jacobian of a vector field. The Curl of a matrix is to be taken row-wise as a usual curl for vector fields.

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